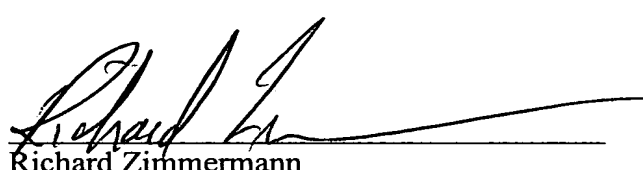


PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PCT
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Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

the amendments to the specification section begins on page 2 of this paper;

the amendment to the claims section begins on page 5 of this paper; and

the remarks section begins on page 11 of this paper.